Aruba TODAY

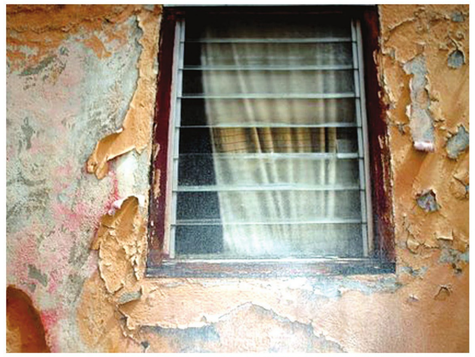
Het Binnenhuys presents photographs by Mick Miller

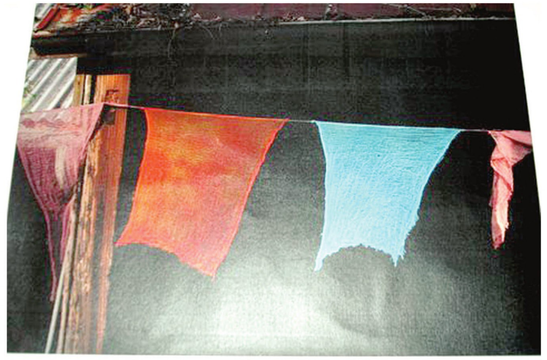
Aruba's new discovery debuts works with "Sunny 16"



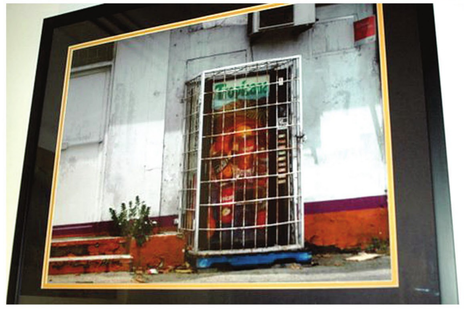
























ORANJESTAD - Mick Miller has been a professional restaurateur and later was a professional photographer in his native New Jersey. He and wife Liz, a computer programmer, enjoy their home of four years by the sea in Aruba. This is his first solo exhibition in here.

If you were to talk with him about photography you should be prepared to spend some time with him, as the conversation could go on for hours. When asked his thoughts about photography as an art form Miller began by explaining a few of the differences between traditional photography, photo illustration and painting.





"With the advent of computers and photo-shop, anyone can take a picture, do some manipulations and add some special effects with the click of the mouse and instantly have a piece of art. That is basically photo illustration and there are people that are very talented at it and produce wonderful, creative pieces of art. I work along the lines of traditional photography where the initial image starts in the camera."

Miller went on to elaborate, "In photo illustration, as in painting, the image is created by addition. The artist can add anything they desire to the image. Objects, colors; they are only limited by their creative imagination."

"Since photography is the act of recording light reflected off an object I have to work around many variables and limitations. Often I will see something of interest but it will be the wrong time of the day or even the wrong time of the year. This is especially true with landscapes, in which the only control I have is my position, choice of lens, filters and the settings on the camera. For a landscape I may have to return to the scene many times before I think that everything is right. The angle and quality of the light, the clouds in the sky - it's all taken into consideration before I make the exposure."

He continued, "Whereas painting and photo illustration is additive, my work is subtractive. I view the scene and might notice something that I do not want in the image. That necessitates moving the camera to take the object out of the picture. I'll keep repositioning myself until I have removed anything that I do not want in the final image."

Black & white is his first passion but you will find his color work as equally inspiring. His photographic subjects of interest are landscapes, architecture, floral studies and on occasion, objects and scenes that one might describe as macabre or bizarre.

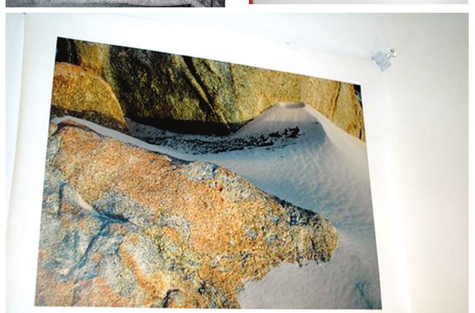
"Although I now work with a digital camera and computer" Miller said, "I maintain my craft utilizing the tools and techniques of film photography. Filters are used on the camera to create the original images rather than applying them later with a computer program. The computer serves as my chemical-free darkroom and is employed for traditional darkroom techniques such dodging and burning, increasing image latitude or toning."

"Photography as an art form has a quality that by its very nature makes it different from say a painting or a sculpture in that it is reproducible. In photography the original image is the negative or as is the case these days, the digital file, and the print of the image is the end product. The great American photographer Ansel Adams once observed, "The negative is comparable to the composer's score and the print to its performance. Each performance differs in subtle way".

An original musical composition can be performed innumerable times and even have many different arrangements (There are over 2,000 recorded versions of "Louie Louie"). Likewise the photographer's negative can be reproduced innumerable times and even have many different variations. The print variable could be something as simple as the size. It could be as subtle as using a different substrate such as canvas or a paper that is warmer or cooler or with a different texture or finish."







Visiting Aruba for the first time in 1997, Miller fell in love with the island and its people. After many visits he decided to move and became a full time resident in the summer of 2004, eager to leave the hustle and bustle of New Jersey and to live a more idyllic lifestyle. Since arriving in his new home he has been in several group exhibitions, had a joint show at the Toyota Art Gallery 168 with fellow New Jersey expatriate and painter, Joseph Miklojcik and taught classes at the International School of Aruba.

Sunny 16 will be on view until September 25, 2009 and is an exceptional collection, along with all the other beautiful items on display. The venue, Het Binnenhuys, is not just a store. It is an old mansion restored to its old luster, complete with the original stained glass windows and antique tiling, True Island Class. Het Binnenhuys is also an Art Gallery, and they love to work and participate in the local art scene and in this way are supporting and stimulating the local artists. They carry paintings, objects, statues, home fashion and jewelry. Het Binnenhuys is located at Avenida Milio Croes 26, Oranjestad.❑

Photos by Jan Falcone

